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DD/S 63-8732

3 SEP 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Albert D. Wheeler

Re:

As you probably know, when Dick Bissell, while serving in the Director's office, was responsible for the U-2 project, he had delegated to him complete authority for all procurement activities connected therewith. When he became the Deputy Director (Plans) and the [redacted] Division was organized, he carried this authority along with him.

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As I recall, except for the initial delegation in connection with the U-2 project, no written authority for this action exists. However, both Mr. Dulles and General Cabell knew and approved of this arrangement. Shortly after Mr. McCone and General Carter came to the Agency and Pete Scoville became the Deputy Director (Research), Pete and I reviewed this question with General Carter in order to satisfy ourselves that he wished to continue the established procedure and to ensure against any misunderstanding as to who was responsible. While no written or oral instructions were issued, as a result of this meeting it was Pete's and my understanding that General Carter wished to continue the existing arrangements which provided that the DD/R was the responsible officer.

In the absence of any instructions to the contrary, this is still my position with regard to DD/S&T. As you know, the Procurement Division in the Office of Logistics has always supplied the contracting officers to OSA, and you may be assured that within the limit of our capabilities we will continue to supply contracting officers who are fully qualified to do this work; and we stand ready to assist you in any way we can. However, I think we should both understand that under the present arrangement the final responsibility for OSA contracting rests with DD/S&T.

L. K. White

cc: DDCI
D/Log
D/Sec

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